

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the courteous telephone conference conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on November 27, 2003. To confirm the substance of that conversation, applicant pointed out to the Examiner that it is clear the teachings of the Becker et al reference do not disclose or suggest a disc advancement mechanism that could be used with a disc that rotates and that Kennedy et al do not disclose or suggest an automatic disc advancement mechanism at all since the disc of Kennedy et al is manually transported between two workstations in all embodiments. The Examiner appears to appreciate this and today's amendment which was mentioned to the Examiner in the conference, is now being made of record and provides in each of the independent claims under consideration that the disc advancement mechanism allows relative rotational movement between the disc and the workstation. This amendment distinguishes over the Becker et al and Kennedy et al references, taken singly or in combination. Claims 1-19 remain in this application and stand for examination.

Rejection of claim 1-3 and 16-19 for obviousness

Claims 1-3 and 16-19 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy et al United States Patent 6,322,430 in view of Becker et al United States Patent 4,604,027.

Both of the principal references have been dealt with above and during the telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner. Today's amendment would patentably distinguish the claims presently under consideration over the Becker et al and Kennedy et al references, taken singly or in combination.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in respect of claims 4-15 with appreciation.

In view of the above, it would appear that the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-19 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Per: _____

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